Fly to the South Pole, where all 360 lines of longitude meet and in a few steps you can walk around the world. History comes alive as you stand at 90° South, the ultimate goal of polar explorers Amundsen and Scott. Imagine how it felt to head out across the frozen continent and into the unknown over 100 years ago. Feel the spirit of determination and discovery that has inspired a century of Antarctic exploration and scientific research.

Outside Amundsen-Scott Station, you’ll have plenty of time for photographs at the Ceremonial Pole, surrounded by the flags of the Antarctic Treaty signatory nations. A journey to the South Pole is a significant achievement for any world traveler and you’ll feel the power of this special place.
Day 1
Fly to Antarctica

Day 2-5
Explore Union Glacier

Flexible Flight Day
Fly to the South Pole

Day 6 or 7
Return to Chile

Flexible Departure Day
Fly Home

Arrival Day
Punta Arenas, Chile
Personalized Gear Check

Pre-departure Day
Flight Check-in and Baggage Drop-off
Welcome and Safety Briefing

Day 1
Fly to Antarctica

Day 2-5
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*All itineraries are subject to change based on weather and flight conditions.*
ARRIVAL IN PUNTA ARENAS

We ask you to arrive in Punta Arenas, Chile at least two full days prior to your scheduled Antarctic flight in order to fully prepare you for your upcoming experience. These days also allow a buffer for flight and luggage delays should your travels to Chile not go as scheduled. We do not hold Antarctic flights for delayed passengers or luggage.

Do not forget to collect your checked luggage in Santiago, before clearing customs! Upon arrival in Chile, you will pass through immigration, collect your checked luggage, go through customs, and then go to the 3rd floor of the terminal and re-check your bags for your domestic flight to Punta Arenas. If your luggage does not arrive, complete a missing form for lost luggage before leaving the Santiago airport.

Upon arrival at Presidente Carlos Ibáñez del Campo International Airport (PUQ), our representative, holding an ALE sign, will be waiting for you at the exit of the luggage claim area and will transport you to your hotel.

Please notify our Punta Arenas team if you are delayed or your arrival time changes:

Guest Services Manager
guests.punta@antarctic-logistics.com
+56 9 9832 7472

Guest Transport Services
+56 9 9640 0135

Office Address
Calle Bernardo O'Higgins 568

You will receive a Welcome Pack which includes your Gear Check time, your Clothing Rental time (if applicable), your Check-in and Baggage Drop-off time, and the time of the Welcome & Safety Briefing. These events are required and very important steps in preparing you for arrival in Antarctica.

Gear Check

We will arrange a specific time to come to your hotel and review your personal clothing and equipment. Please lay out all of the items on our Required Clothing and Equipment List in your hotel room so we can go through each item with you. We will help sort the items to pack in your checked luggage vs. your carry-on bag and what items to leave behind in Punta Arenas.
Flight Check-in and Baggage Drop-off

Keep the following requirements in mind as you prepare your luggage:

• All luggage must comply with international air transport regulations.
• For the safety of our staff, individual bags must not weigh more than 55 lb (25 kg).

On the morning before your Antarctic flight we will meet you in your hotel lobby at the scheduled check-in and baggage drop-off time. We will transport you and your bags to the ALE office for the check-in and baggage drop-off event.

You will need to bring the following items:

• Passport, to check-in for the flight and receive your boarding pass.
• Checked luggage, to be loaded on the aircraft.
• Carry-on luggage and any camera equipment, to be tested for size and ticketed for the flight, although not collected at this time.

Checked Luggage

Checked luggage is collected the day before your Antarctic flight in order to preload the aircraft so it is ready to depart as soon as the weather is suitable. Keep in mind, you will not have access to your checked luggage until it is delivered to your tent in Antarctica, even if the flight is delayed. Do not put anything in your checked luggage that you might need during a delay in Punta Arenas, on the flight, or for the first few hours in Antarctica.

Your checked luggage allowance is 55 lb (25 kg). Any checked luggage in excess of this amount will be charged at $35 USD per lb ($77 USD per kg). You can pay in US cash or we can invoice you for the excess luggage. Carry-on luggage within the size limit, clothing worn aboard the aircraft, and sleeping bags rented from ALE, are not included in your checked luggage allowance.

Carry-on Luggage

Pack all of your essential personal belongings in your carry-on. The Ilyushin-76 does not have overhead bins, so your carry-on bag must fit below the seat in front of you. Carry-on luggage is restricted to 18” x 16” x 10” (46cm x 41cm x 26cm). We recommend a 30 liter bag without a rigid structure so it is easier to fit below the seat. Carry-on items that do not fit under the seat will be gate checked and may result in additional fees. You will need to bring your carry-on to the check-in and baggage drop-off to be tagged and tested for size.

As we depart Punta Arenas you will be wearing the boots and outer clothing for your arrival in Antarctica. The temperature on board the aircraft will be adjusted accordingly, so don’t worry about getting too hot. It is simpler to wear these items than to carry them.

Camera Equipment

If you are bringing a camera pack that is larger than the carry-on size limit or as a 2nd carry-on, it will be considered part of your checked luggage allowance, and it will need to be weighed and ticketed at the luggage pick-up. You will keep the pack with you to board the aircraft but once on board, your camera pack will be stored behind the last row of passenger seats. You will not have access to your camera pack during the flight. If you want to take pictures during the flight, keep that camera with you. Remember to retrieve your camera pack before disembarking the aircraft in Antarctica.
Left Luggage
You can leave luggage in Punta Arenas if there are items you do not need in Antarctica but we do not recommend leaving valuables. We will provide **Left Luggage Tags** with a tear-off claim receipt. Please give the bottom portion of the tag to an ALE staff member as you board the bus for your Antarctic flight. In most cases ALE will pick-up your left luggage from your hotel and bring it to our office for storage while you are in Antarctica. Your left luggage will be transported by ALE to your hotel once your return flight is confirmed. In the event you stay in a different hotel upon your return, our staff will need this claim receipt to move your left luggage for you. ALE is not responsible for lost or stolen luggage.

Welcome and Safety Briefing
The evening before your Antarctic flight, you are invited to our office for an important safety briefing. Here, we will describe the flight dispatch process, update you on the current weather, and prepare you for arrival at Union Glacier. Enjoy Hors d’oeuvres and pisco sours served over Antarctic ice with your fellow travelers.
FLY ANTARCTICA

We will call you at your hotel in the morning to advise you of current conditions in Antarctica. If the weather is suitable for our flight, we will pick you up at your hotel within the hour. Please meet us in the lobby with hotel bills paid, ready to board the bus.

At the Punta Arenas airport, we will go through General Airport Security before boarding our chartered jet for the 4½ hour flight to Antarctica. Our route crosses the Drake Passage, then follows the west side of the Antarctic Peninsula and the spine of the Ellsworth Mountains. We land on a naturally occurring blue-ice runway on Union Glacier where you will take your first steps in Antarctica.

Climb aboard one of our specially-adapted vans for the 5 mi (8 km) shuttle to our main camp. Our friendly staff will provide a welcome tour of camp and show you to your tent.
During your week stay in Antarctica, you’ll have multiple days to explore Union Glacier. Our meteorologists will carefully monitor the weather conditions and find the best day for your South Pole Flight. A typical day at Union Glacier starts with a briefing after breakfast where you’ll meet with your guide to discuss the day’s options and choose an activity tailored to the weather and the group’s interests. Union Glacier excursions can include any of the following destinations:

**Elephant’s Head**
Ride in one of our wheeled vehicles to this dramatic marble buttress overlooking the blue-ice runway. Geology lovers will be delighted to find this is a hotspot for ichnofossils. Our experienced guides can help you navigate by GPS to known trace fossils or accompany you on a mission to discover new ones. For photographers, beautiful ice pools and moraines offer endless opportunities to capture close-up frozen formations or wide angle glacial landscapes. Hikers can trek up to the base of Elephant’s Head or all the way to the top of Rhodes Bluff for panoramic views of Union Glacier and the Heritage Range.
Buchanan Hills
Board our one-of-a-kind Tucker Bus, a custom designed tracked vehicle, for the scenic drive to the remote Buchanan Hills. You’ll arrive at a high pass that offers expansive views of Union Glacier as it flows into Constellation Inlet. Higgins Nunatak pokes through the ice, like an atoll in a frozen ocean. For the fit and adventurous, there are two easy hiking routes that require no prior experience and grant you the rare opportunity to summit a peak in the heart of Antarctica.

Drake Icefall
Named in the 1960s after geologist Benjamin Drake IV, this impressive icefall tumbles off the polar plateau into Union Glacier. Winds from the South Pole carve huge waves into the blue-ice and polish the surface into a high shine.

Charles Peak Windscoop
Discover the power of wind on ice as you wander through a sparkling turquoise corridor. If you’re truly adventurous, this is a prime place to try ice climbing with one of our experienced guides. For the less vertically inclined, you can rock hunt to your heart’s content. Just remember to leave them in place, as nothing may be removed from Antarctica.

The Beach at Rossman Cove
Another spectacular setting for photography and panoramic views! Take cross-country skis with you or a picnic lunch and enjoy Antarctica’s version of a glacial beach getaway. If you’d prefer to stay closer to camp, we have a variety of activities for all abilities. You can check out a pair of cross-country skis or a fat-tire bike and take a spin around our groomed 10k loop or you can enjoy a cup of tea, an Antarctic book, or fun game in our camp library. In the evenings, we regularly offer lectures and films tailored to your experience.
Once weather conditions permit, you will board our ski aircraft and head for the southernmost point on Earth! Your flight is planned to return the same day but we will bring food and camping equipment in the event weather conditions change and an overnight stay is necessary. Our guest services team will assist you in packing your sleeping bag. The flight to the Pole will take between 4-6 hours depending on the aircraft. You’ll fly over the high, polar plateau, viewing wind affected snow called sastrugi, crevasse fields, and an endless expanse of white. You’ll pass the Thiel Mountains approximately halfway to the Pole and continue to fly over the plateau. As you near 90° South, you will catch sight of the South Pole station, a cluster of buildings surrounded by snow and sky. Our aircraft lands on a groomed ski-way and you’ll deplane near the South Pole marker. Here all 360 lines of longitude meet and beneath your feet the ice is almost 10,000 ft (3000 m) thick! You have joined an exclusive group of people who have journeyed this far south on our planet. Congratulations!
Be prepared for extreme cold and the effects of altitude as you deplane. South Pole temperatures range from -31° to -13°F (-35° to -25°C) and even the slightest breeze can quickly freeze exposed skin. Put on warm layers and cover your hands and face completely. The physiological altitude (how high it feels) at the South Pole is roughly 11,000 ft (3300 m). You may feel the effects of altitude, including shortness of breath and mild headache. Take it slow and steady to help your body cope with these unfamiliar conditions. One of our experienced medics accompanies all South Pole flights and is ready to assist you should you have any issues with the cold or altitude. The United States of America maintains a research station at the South Pole, named Amundsen-Scott Station in memory of those intrepid explorers. If United States Antarctic Program (USAP) staff are available, you will be escorted inside the research station for a guided visit. Outside the station, you will have plenty of time to take photos at both the Geographic and Ceremonial Poles. Enjoy this special place and imagine how it must have felt to stand here a century ago with only the sound of the wind and an endless expanse of white stretching northward in all directions. Your visit to the Pole will last approximately 3-4 hours. Given the cold conditions and altitude, we've found this to be the perfect amount of time for guests to accomplish their objectives and enjoy the experience.
Due to the potential for weather delays, we strongly suggest booking your flight home one week after your planned return from Antarctica. If you purchase a full-fare ticket, most airlines will allow you to move your departure date. We recommend booking tickets through a travel agent, so they can change your ticket once the return flight from Antarctica is en route. Please note, ALE staff are unable to assist with airline reservations.

Should you wish to explore Chile before you return home, our team can provide a list of local tour operators and excursions. When it is time for your flight home, we will provide transportation from your hotel to the Punta Arenas airport.
Activity Level
Moderate—light walking on uneven snow and ice at a physiological altitude of 11,000 ft (3300 m).

Weather
Possible severe storms with temperatures down to -40°F (-40°C).

What’s Included
• Airport transfers in Punta Arenas, Chile
• Round trip flight to Antarctica from Punta Arenas
• Round trip flight to South Pole from Union Glacier, Antarctica
• Meals and tented accommodation in Antarctica
• Antarctic guides and lecturer
• Celebration dinner and Certificate of Achievement
• Checked luggage up to 55 lb (25 kg)

Not Included
• Insurance coverage—personal, medical, evacuation, or otherwise
• Commercial flights to and from Punta Arenas
• Airport transfers outside of Punta Arenas
• Meals and accommodation in Punta Arenas
• Additional flights within Antarctica
• Personal equipment and clothing
• Expenses incurred due to delays
• Luggage over 55 lb (25 kg)
• Satellite phone charges

Weather Delay Advisory
All itineraries are subject to change based on weather and flight conditions. Every effort will be made to keep to the scheduled itinerary and flights will depart as soon as weather and runway conditions permit. Our staff will provide you with regular updates in the event of a delay.

Please understand that delays are common in Antarctic travel. For this reason we advise you not to plan any important meetings, functions, or other trips for at least one week following your scheduled return from Antarctica. We strongly suggest that you purchase a full-fare, flexible airline ticket that easily permits date changes without penalty.